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*File IHC*

ODP 9-1615

6 November 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: Bruce T. Johnson  
Director of Data Processing

SUBJECT: 2 November 1979 Meeting of the IHC/ADP Subcommittee (U)

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1. On 2 November at a meeting of the ADP Subcommittee of the IHC, [REDACTED] and I received a briefing on the results of the [REDACTED] study of the CIA proposal regarding a Community-wide bibliographic and document retrieval system. The briefing covered some of the same ground which is included in the draft report previously received from [REDACTED] Chairman, IHC, but it differed in some respects and most significantly, it led to a series of restated recommendations. (The new recommendations, together with summaries of the findings, conclusions, and policy issues, will be attachments to this memorandum.) (U)

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2. A number of issues were raised in the course of the briefing and in the discussion which ensued when the briefing was complete. There was considerable discussion of the implications of accessing RECON through COINS and Mr. [REDACTED] emphasised that, to be useful to him, the data base would have to be available to all COINS-connected terminals, including those located overseas. A footnote on one of the contractors' charts implied that CIA had imposed a restriction against interconnection with terminals located outside of the United States. I agreed to pursue this point and report to my colleagues on the nature of the limitation if indeed one existed. 1/ (C)

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3. Both DIA and NSA spokesmen expressed concern about the rate at which ORCON and other restricted material seem to be growing within the RECON data base. The contractor's projections show a 6% per year rise in the share of the data base represented by these restricted categories of information. Specifically, they showed that restricted information represented 10.9% of RECON in 1977, 18.0% in 1978, and 23.6% in 1979. [REDACTED] pointed out that in five years at this rate of

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1/ On Tuesday, 6 November, [REDACTED] advised me that the footnote in question had been misstated, leading to confusion about access to RECON from overseas terminals. [REDACTED] will advise [REDACTED] of the error, since [REDACTED] was most concerned about this matter. (C)

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growth so much of RECON would be inaccessible that its utility as a shared data base would be in doubt. [REDACTED] quite clearly sees this growth of restricted information as a broader policy issue regarding the reduction in the amount of information generally available within the Intelligence Community. I think it likely that we will be hearing more about the subject, whether or not within the context of the proposal to build a common bibliographic reference system for the Community. (C)

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4. A difference in perceptions about how RECON can be handled within CIA became apparent as the briefing continued. I had concluded from early discussions about this proposal that we would probably create a copy of RECON (or a large part of it) to reside on a stand-alone computer connected to terminals elsewhere in the Intelligence Community, and that CIA would continue to be served from the existing system. [REDACTED] the contractor who led the research effort and who was doing the briefing, had been advised by [REDACTED] of OCR that this was not the case and that CIA would rely upon software controls to limit external access to those parts of RECON which could not be shared with the rest of the Community. This is a rather fundamental difference which needs to be cleared up. [REDACTED] provided a copy of his memorandum to the Bibliographic Study Group covering his meeting with [REDACTED]. In this memorandum in para. 4., [REDACTED] is quoted as saying that CIA did not envision running two complete versions of the RECON data base on separate machines. ([REDACTED] memorandum is also attached to this Memo for the Record.) I believe it is too early to commit ourselves to reliance on software protection for the sensitive data in RECON. (U)

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5. Discussion of software controls over compartmented data caused [REDACTED] to ask me whether the data base was certifiable as a compartmented system under DCI 1/16. I said I thought not but would check on the question. He went on to say that NSA believes it is close to obtaining compartmented system certification for the SOLIS system so as to permit that system to include GAMMA information. (C)

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6. In a discussion of the potential use of the ADSTAR system, [REDACTED] reported that he had received just that day a telephone quotation from DCA attributing a cost of \$1 million to the communications requirements for wide band communications links to move data from the ADSTAR system to remote locations. It was not clear whether this quotation

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would cover a network of linkages to serve the entire Washington area or whether this would be the cost of each individual link with ADSTAR. I did not have an opportunity to obtain clarification on this point. It was apparent that it was only preliminary information and [REDACTED] was expecting something in writing from DCA. This, too, is something that needs to be followed up on. (U)

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7. There was considerable discussion about the nature of the relationship between the RECON data base and the SAFE system, and there was some discussion about the possibility of turning SAFE's version of RECON into a Community system. I obtained, without any need for pressure, quick agreement from my DIA and NSA colleagues that this was no time to introduce new requirements into the initial deliveries of SAFE. [REDACTED] said that clearly we should not change the requirements for SAFE IOC but rather should be thinking about the possibility of broader access to index information as an element in follow-on enhancements of the initial SAFE system. (U)

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8. I also obtained support from [REDACTED] for my assertion that although the contractor had demonstrated that the RECON data base was, without doubt, the most useful single index system available in the Community today, he had not addressed the question of the perceived utility of that system as an online resource to the analysts of the Intelligence Community. In other words, the requirement for online access to an unaltered RECON had not been established and

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[REDACTED] both agreed that that requirement should be established before we invested any funds in this proposal. There was some further discussion about the effort that Mr.

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[REDACTED] has made to get funds inserted into the 1981 Community budget for this purpose, and we learned that his intention is merely to earmark funds at this time, with the expectation that as our definition of our requirements grows clearer, we could modify the proposal and perhaps spend the money for rather a different system once we reach fiscal 81. His concern was to have resources available in the '81 time frame and in this effort he was supported by [REDACTED] and especially by [REDACTED], both of whom saw an advantage in avoiding, if possible, the loss of a whole year in accomplishing something which everyone agrees needs to be done (whether or not the solution to the Community problem is to be found in online access to RECON). (U)

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9. It was agreed that the contractors' findings should be presented for information purposes to the rest of the IHC at the meeting on 8 November, but that the report itself should go to the Community Working Group which had been set

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up for this purpose. The IHC will, in turn, receive a recommendation for action from the Working Group, and it is that recommendation, not the recommendations of the contractor, on which the IHC will pass judgment. Clearly, some time will elapse before all this can be accomplished. [REDACTED] hopes, however, to have a clearer idea of what is needed and desired in time to have those perceptions play a part in the preparation of the 1982 Community budget. (U)

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10. In addressing the various aspects of the contractor's report and preliminary recommendations, I drew heavily upon a draft memorandum given to me by [REDACTED] of OCR and containing an excellent analysis of the draft preliminary report prepared by the Contractor, [REDACTED]. Some of the observations in OCR's draft memorandum may be subject to change in view of the modification which the contractor has made in his recommendations. (U)

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11. One other point that came up during the briefing needs to be confirmed. [REDACTED] asserted that a new capability is to be added to the RECON system to permit searches of words in context as they appear in the title of the document's index in RECON. It was clear that the addition of this new capability would be important to DIA and NSA if they were to use the RECON data base. (U)

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12. Some discussion took place as the meeting closed about the possibility of substituting NSA for CIA as the location for the new Community capability based on RECON. [REDACTED] suggested that it might be more economical to create a one way link between CIA and NSA for more efficient transfer of information to the COINS host computer at NSA and that the proposed copy of RECON which would be used by the Community, periodically updated through this one way link, could be accessed from existing COINS terminals already connected to the NSA host. It was agreed that this possibility should be explored to see whether it would, in fact, be a more economical solution. [REDACTED] observed, however, that there would appear to be some advantage in establishing a COINS-linked computer at CIA headquarters, in part for cosmetic reasons to demonstrate more dramatically to the rest of the Community that CIA was indeed willing to play a part in the development of a Community information service. I assured the group that we would welcome the opportunity to acquire a computer for COINS but that we did face some very practical problems in terms of space and manpower--problems which might not be encountered if the service were provided from an existing or augmented computer facility already established and in operation at NSA. (C)

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SUBJECT: 2 November 1979 Meeting of the IHC/ADP Subcommittee  
(ODP 9-1615)

Attachments: 25X1A

1. Summary of [REDACTED] Conclusions,  
Costs, Recommendations, and Issues (7 pages) dated  
2 November 1979
2. [REDACTED] memo dated 10 October 1979

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cc: D/OCR

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### POLICY ISSUES SURFACED DURING STUDY

- MAJOR AUTOMATED SYSTEMS WERE IDENTIFIED THAT MIGHT SERVE AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR A DISTRIBUTED COMMUNITY BIBLIOGRAPHIC SYSTEM.
- ACCEPTANCE OF CIA PROPOSAL WAS SEEN AS THE INITIAL STEP TOWARD ACHIEVING ECONOMIES IN MANPOWER AND HARDWARE BY INCREASED SHARING OF AUTOMATED SYSTEMS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.
- ACCEPTANCE OF CIA PROPOSAL WOULD REQUIRE MODIFIED SECURITY MEASURES TO MANAGE THE INCREASED ACCESS TO HIGHLY SENSITIVE MATERIAL.
- COINS ACCESS TO RECON WOULD PROVIDE A USEFUL TEST OF SOFTWARE/HARDWARE ISOLATION THAT CAN BE APPLIED TO FOLLOW-ON SYSTEMS SUCH AS SAFE.
- REVIEW OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC SYSTEMS REVEALED DESIRABILITY OF ADOPTING ENGLISH-LIKE INDEXING IN FUTURE COMMUNITY-WIDE SYSTEMS.
- INTEREST IN POSSIBILITY OF USING ADS TO PROVIDE STATE PRODUCTS TO THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WAS BROADENED.
- A NEED FOR POLICY REVIEW OF TRENDS AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO ORCON PRODUCTS WAS IDENTIFIED.

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2 Nov 79

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- DEVELOP A LONG-RANGE COMMUNITY PLAN FOR A DISTRIBUTED BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE SYSTEM THAT INTEGRATES BIBLIOGRAPHIC SYSTEMS AT CIA, DIA, NSA, NPIC, AIR FORCE FTD, AND POSSIBLY STATE.
- ACCEPT CIA'S PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE LIMITED, DIRECT ON-LINE ACCESS THROUGH COINS TO THE RECON BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA BASE BY INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY AS AN INTERIM STEP IN DEVELOPING THE DISTRIBUTED BIBLIOGRAPHIC SYSTEM.
- TAKE ACTION TO ALLOW TOTAL RECON ACCESS TO A LIMITED NUMBER OF PROPERLY CLEARED INFORMATION SPECIALISTS IN EACH AGENCY, WHO WILL PROVIDE BASIC REFERENCES TO SENSITIVE DOCUMENTS FOR THOSE ANALYSTS HAVING A NEED-TO-KNOW.
- CONDUCT FURTHER ANALYSIS TO DETERMINE HOW CIA'S ADSTAR SYSTEM MAY CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY-WIDE DOCUMENT STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL.
- ENSURE THAT THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC INDEX SYSTEM BEING DEVELOPED AS PART OF THE SAFE PROJECT BECOMES AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE COMMUNITY BIBLIOGRAPHIC SYSTEM.
- DEVELOP STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL STANDARDS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY-WIDE DISTRIBUTED BIBLIOGRAPHIC SYSTEM.

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CONCLUSIONS

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- THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY LACKS A LONG-RANGE PLAN FOR PROVIDING COMMUNITY-WIDE BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES AND DOCUMENT STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SERVICES.
- A DISTRIBUTED INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY BIBLIOGRAPHIC SYSTEM WOULD BE THE BEST METHOD FOR PROVIDING SUCH SERVICES.
- CIA'S PROPOSAL IS A REASONABLE BASIS FOR PROVIDING INTERIM COVERAGE UNTIL A BROADER SYSTEM CAN BE DEVELOPED. IN THE INTERIM RECON WILL PROVIDE A GREATER BREADTH AND DEPTH OF REFERENCES TO INTELLIGENCE SOURCES THAN ANY OTHER AUTOMATED REFERENCE AND WILL SERVE AS A TRANSITIONAL SUPPORT TOOL UNTIL COMMUNITY STANDARDS FOR THE DISTRIBUTED SYSTEM ARE DEVELOPED.
- CIA'S OFFER TO PROVIDE DIRECT ON-LINE RECON ACCESS VIA THE COINS NETWORK IS THE BEST CHOICE FOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC SERVICES; HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING SHORTCOMINGS IN THIS APPROACH MUST BE OVERCOME FOR AN EFFECTIVE INTERIM SYSTEM:
  - SUBSTANTIAL ACCESS RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY CIA FOR NON-CIA USERS
  - LACK OF FULL-TEXT SEARCH AND RETRIEVAL
  - SPARSE CODING.
- CIA'S OFFER TO PROVIDE OFF-LINE ACCESS TO HARD COPY DOCUMENTS IN ITS ADSTAR SYSTEM IS THE BEST INTERIM CHOICE FOR DOCUMENT STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL.
- SOME LONG-TERM SAVINGS IN MANPOWER AND COMPUTING RESOURCES MAY BE POSSIBLE IF THE EXPANSION OF RECON BECOMES AN INITIAL STEP IN A COMMUNITY-WIDE EFFORT TO IMPROVE AUTOMATED SUPPORT.

2 Nov '79

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS  
AUTOMATED DOCUMENT STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL (ADSTAR)

- ADSTAR POTENTIALLY PROVIDES A SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT IN AUTOMATED MICROFILM STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL OF DOCUMENTS.
- THE PROTOTYPE HARD/SOFT COPY DEVICE REQUIRES IMPROVEMENTS.
- HIGH-SPEED DIGITAL TRANSMISSION OF IMAGES IS POSSIBLE VIA WAWS AND HATS.
- THE DECISION ON COMMUNITY-WIDE USE OF ADSTAR SHOULD BE DELAYED PENDING FURTHER STUDY.

2 Nov 79

## FINDINGS (CONTINUED)

### RELEVANCE

- RECON CONTAINS REFERENCES TO SOURCES ON TOPICS OF INTEREST TO ALL AGENCIES.
- RECON DOES NOT CONTAIN SEVERAL DATA ELEMENTS THAT ARE UNIQUE TO BIBLIOGRAPHIC SYSTEMS IN OTHER AGENCIES.
- THE LABOR-INTENSIVE CODING PROCESS USED BY RECON PREVENTS THAT SYSTEM FROM PROVIDING THE IN-DEPTH SEARCHING AND RETRIEVAL CAPABILITY THAT IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN OTHER COMMUNITY FULL-TEXT BIBLIOGRAPHIC SYSTEMS.

### CURRENCY

- ONCE RECEIVED, SOURCES ARE INDEXED AND PLACED INTO RECON AS FAST AS ANY OTHER BIBLIOGRAPHIC SYSTEM EXCEPT SOLIS.

### TIMELINESS

- TIMELY RECON RESPONSE IS CURRENTLY RESTRICTED BY A SOFTWARE LIMITATION ON THE NUMBER OF SIMULTANEOUS USERS AND BY THE LIMITED NUMBER OF TERMINALS THAT HAVE ON-LINE ACCESS.
- THE PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY RECON WOULD ALLOW A 400% INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SIMULTANEOUS USERS.

2 Nov '79

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS BIBLIOGRAPHIC SERVICES (RECON)

### COMPLETENESS

- RECON'S ON-LINE BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES EQUATE TO APPROXIMATELY 40% OF THE REFERENCES MAINTAINED IN THE COMMUNITY'S OTHER MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC SYSTEMS.
- NO OTHER SYSTEM HAS RECON'S BREADTH AND DEPTH OF COVERAGE.

### SECURITY

- RECON INDEXES DOCUMENTS CLASSIFIED FROM UNCLASSIFIED TO TOP SECRET SI/TK/G. NO OTHER SYSTEM HAS THIS RANGE OF CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ON-LINE.
- RECON PROVIDES THE CAPABILITY TO SEGMENT RESTRICTED MATERIAL (G, ORCON, ETC.) INTO FILES WHOSE ACCESS MAY BE CONTROLLED THROUGH SOFTWARE.
- BECAUSE RECON PROVIDES ONLY THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE TO A SOURCE (NOT FULL TEXT), THE RISK OF PROVIDING ON-LINE, COMMUNITY-WIDE ACCESS TO THE SYSTEM IS REDUCED.
- HIGHLY SENSITIVE COLLECTION MATERIAL CURRENTLY RESIDING ON STORAGE DEVICES SHARED WITH RECON REQUIRES AN ELECTRONICALLY - ISOLATED HOST PROCESSOR WITH DEDICATED PERIPHERALS TO PROVIDE BOTH CIA AND COMMUNITY ACCESS TO RECON.

### ACCESSIBILITY

- DIRECT ON-LINE ACCESS TO RECON IS CURRENTLY RESTRICTED TO CIA ANALYSTS AT CIA, NPIC, AND NITC.
- DIRECT ON-LINE ACCESS TO RECON VIA COINS WILL PROVIDE COMMUNITY-WIDE ACCESS.

STATINTL

Approved For Release 2002/01/08 : CIA-RDP83T00573R000100120003-8

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Approved For Release 2002/01/08 : CIA-RDP83T00573R000100120003-8

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### **PHILOSOPHY (CONTINUED)**

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### CONCLUSIONS

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